

A Message from Judge Stanton:

No volunteer program lives within a vacuum. It is subject to, shaped and influenced by the world in which it resides. The 13th Circuit Court Volunteer program is the poster child for resiliency and excellence.

Over the last six months, we hosted the CASA conference, celebrated volunteers with a wonderful Holiday Dinner, grieved the loss of Lindsey Jordan...volunteer coordinator extraordinaire, were the recipients of a generous award from the Grand Traverse Band for a new(er) vehicle for transportation, and had Jenn Moore (juvenile program director) step in and Kathy Nixon step up to hold down the fort.

The 13th Circuit Court Volunteer program started over 30 years ago with the visionary Judge MacKness. It has grown, changed directions, and added and deleted programming, as the law, the juveniles and the needs of their families have changed and evolved in our community. 30 years ago no one could have anticipated the opioid epidemic, the number of vulnerable adults in our community that need assistance, the level of school violence and mass shootings, babies born addicted to drugs, the rate of school suspensions, the number of single parent households or the criminogenic factors that 21st century juveniles experience and live with every day in their homes...but the 13th Circuit Court Volunteers do – and they adapt to meet the needs.

When I attend a judicial conference I am overcome with pride (and sometimes teary) when I discuss everything the Volunteers accomplish for this Court. I am so proud of our Volunteer Program and the skill, education, and dedication of the people that choose to volunteer here. As we search for a new Volunteer Coordinator, the application deadline was March 2, 2018, and shape our program to the growing demands of the juveniles and community...I thank you from the bottom of my heart. As Judge, I know that we could not do it without each and every one of you!

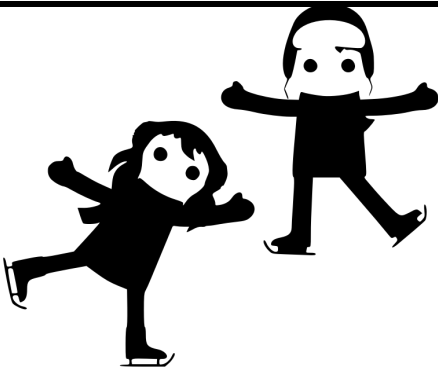
New Transport Vehicle



Judge Stanton, Kris Randall, and County Commissioner Crawford attended the presentation of a grant for \$19,438.16 from the Grand Traverse Band at the Grand Traverse Resort on February 20, 2018.

Family Court Administrator, Kris Randall, submitted an application to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for consideration to receive a 2% grant for the purchase of a new(er) vehicle to transport the youth under court jurisdiction to and from challenge camp, detention and residential treatment. The Family Division of the 13th Circuit Court was awarded a grant in the amount of \$19,438.19!!!

This grant money will ensure the safety of the juveniles and wonderful volunteers that transport them. Thank you to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for the overwhelming generosity and for being a cooperative and significant collaborating partner in our community.



Learning Partners

Three families attend the Learning Partners' Ice Skating Activity on February 19th. This included 3 students, 1 sibling, 3 parents and 1 grandparent and 2 Learning Partner Volunteers. They were supported on the ice by 3 Central High School seniors. The student volunteers taught our Learning Partners new skills while they encouraged and supported (sometimes literally) their time on the ice. Many thanks to Annie Foese, Wilma Gunnari, and Lucy Voss.



Fun was had by ALL! I asked if they would like "to do this again" while they were munching on their pizza lunch. The response was an overwhelming "YES!!" Given the wary looks as they first came through the door and laced-on their skates, this surprised me.

The only bigger response I received was for upcoming swim lessons. One student and a separate parent both literally stood-up to learn more about the opportunity. We will plan to learn water safety and swimming in May.

Parents and Volunteers on hand that had not already completed our semi-annual Learning Partner Program Survey were invited to do so. We have enjoyed hearing from everyone, and the responses are both very positive and supportive. Any families, volunteers or teachers that have not completed a survey are encouraged to contact our office to do so!

Many thanks to Centre Ice for their support of our Learning Partners Program! Donation of ice time and skates and helmets really helped us get folks gliding!!

As always, Learning Partners are in need of more volunteers, especially towards the east side of town for Mill Creek Elementary.

Our next meeting is March 6th,
4 pm to 5 pm



Happy Birthday



March

Wanda Anstine
Christine Berg
Stephen Drosdeck
Heide McNichols
Mark Mueller
Brittany Musselman
June Pate
Pamela Petajan
Bev Saur
Darcy Schlitt

April

Kathy Ann Blunck
Aileen Hubbell
Carolyn Klender
Susan Kraus
Sue Nanasi
Art Nickerson
Lisa Niergarth
Matt Torres
Mary Jo Zazueta
Judy Zrimec

The next CASA meeting is March 20th and we will have special guests! Megan Heethuis from DHHS and Amanda Flowers, Probate Register, will be joining us to explain guardianships. They are willing to answer our questions!

Suggestions for topics for future CASA meetings:

- ♦ Opioid addiction—Lt. Dan King ~Traverse Narcotics Team
- ♦ Forensic Interviewer
- ♦ Autism
- ♦ Adult Drug Court and understanding drug test results

Keep those ideas coming!





**VOLUNTEERS IN
PREVENTION/PROBATION**

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE COURT

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

MELANIE D. STANTON, PROBATE & FAMILY COURT JUDGE

280 Washington St., Suite B 150, Traverse City, MI 49684

231-922-4827

Or Current Resident

Learning Partners

1st Tuesday-4:00-5:00 pm

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

No April Meeting



CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)

3rd Tuesday- 4:00-6:00 pm

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Tuesday, April 17, 2018



***All meetings are held at the Volunteer Services office unless otherwise mentioned.**